

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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TRSE-00 CIEP-01 /083 W

----- 011269

R 220801Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3030

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USINT BAGHDAD

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

COMIDEASTFOR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: KUWAIT PRIME MINISTER VISITS LOWER GULF STATES

REF: A) KUWAIT 1971 (NOTAL) B) KUWAIT 2124 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: KUWAIT PRIME MINISTER/CROWN PRINCE JABER AL-AHMAD

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AL-SABAH RETURNED MAY 20 FROM OFFICIAL VISITS TO BAHRAIN, QATAR,

ABU DHABI AND DUBAI. DURING VISIT HE APPEARS TO HAVE FIRMED ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENTS BETWEEN KUWAIT AND BAHRAIN AND UAE, BUT WAS LESS SUCCESSFUL IN THIS REGARD IN QATAR. ALTHOUGH HIS PRIMARY PRUPOSE PROBABLY WAS TO DISCUSS AND LISTEN TO LOWER GULF VIEWS REGARDING REGIONAL POLITICAL AND SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS, PUBLIC INFO ON THESE ASPECTS OF HIS VISIT ARE VAGUE. JABER AL-AHMAD'S VISIT PROBABLY WAS SUCCESSFUL AS INDICATION OF INTEREST AT HIGHEST LEVEL OF GOK IN ENCOURAGING COOPERATION WITH LOWER GULF NEIGHBORS. END SUMMARY. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. KUWAIT CROWN PRINCE/PRIME MINISTER JABER AL-AHMAD RETURNED TO KUWAIT TUESDAY MAY 20 FROM VISIT TO LOWER GULF WHERE HE HELD TALKS WITH RULERS AND OTHER LEADERS IN BAHRAIN, QATAR, ABU DHABI AND DUBAI. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT AT LEAST IN BAHRAIN AND ABU DHABI THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT "SOME SORT OF GULF UNITY" WAS DESIRABLE AND CLOSER ECONOMIC COOPERATION ON WAS CALLED FOR. APPARENTLY, QATARIS WERE NOT AS FORTHCOMING.

2. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE IN DAILY NEWS JABER AL-AHMAD CARRIED WITH HIM AN AGREEMENT WHICH CALLS FOR CLOSE COOPERATION---THE PAPER SAID UNIFICATION---OF POLICIES WITH RESPECT TO IMPORTATION OF FOODSTUFFS AND MEDICINES AS WELL AS ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT PHARMACEUTICAL PLANTS AND UNIFICATION OF CURRENCIES AND OF AIR TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING POLICIES. IMPORTANCE OF GULF UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER EDUCATION COOPERATION WAS STRESSED. IN ADDITION A JOINT GULF NEWS AGENCY AND PREPARATION OF JOINT INFORMATION PROGRAMS AND CLOSE LIAISON IN INFORMATION AREA WAS AGREED TO. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED WITH BAHRAIN AND UAE, BUT NOT WITH QATAR. FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS ON SPECIFIC SUBJECTS WILL BE HELD IN NEAR FUTURE. END UNCLASSIFIED

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3. COMMENT: ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL AGREEMENTS WITH BAHRAIN AND UAE APPEAR TO BE IN IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ECONOMIC/ CULTURAL AGREEMENTS REACHED BY KUWAIT WITH BAHRAIN AND UAE LAST YEAR. BASED ON INITIAL REPORTS APPEARS THAT GOK TRYING TO MOVE FORWARD WITH SPECIFIC PROJECT PROPOSALS. NOT SURPRISINGLY, QATARIS STILL APPEAR WARY OF KUWAITI INITIATIVES. ANY MOVEMENT ON CURRENCY UNIFICATION WOULD BE PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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4. IN POLITICAL/SECURITY AREAS COMMUNIQUE AND NEWSPAPER REPORTS HAVE BEEN VAGUE AND NOT VERY INFORMATIVE. FOLLOWING VISITS TO BAHRAIN AND ABU DHABI, KUWAITI PAPERS REPORTED THAT LEADERS AGREED ON NEED FOR "SOME SORT OF GULF UNITY". (ISSA AL-HAMAD, DIRECTOR FORMIN POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, TOLD ME REFERENCE TO JOINT SECURITY MEASURES WERE "JUST POLITICS.")

5. WE THINK THERE GOOD CHANCE JABER AL-AHMAD WANTED TO DISCUSS
GENERAL REGIONAL POLITICAL AND SECURITY MATTERS AND RECENT DEV-
ELOPMENTS WITH LOWER GULF RULERS, INCLUDING TREND AMONG IRAN,
IRAQ AND SAUDI ARABIA TOWARDS CLOSER COOPERATION, PERHAPS AT
EXPENSE OF SMALLER GULF STATES. IT WOULD ALSO HAVE BEEN
CHARACTERISTIC IF JABER AL-AHMAD DID AS MUCH LISTENING AS TALKING.
FINALLY, MAJOR PURPOSE OF TRIP WAS PROBABLY TO SHOW BY VISIT
OF CROWN PRINCE/PRIME MINISTER THAT GOK AT HIGHEST LEVELS
PLACES GREAT STORE IN ITS RELATIONS WITH LOWER GULF NEIGHBORS
AND BELIEVES CLOSER COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF POLICIES
IS ESSENTIAL.

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